

BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY AND THE CLOSURE OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING THIS MEETING WAS HELD ELECTRONICALLY. FOLLOWING WAS A LINK TO THE MEETING:

Topic: Township Committee / Board of Health
Time: May 20, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/94556289732?pwd=cFFhZmdyd0JoS1RITEN5Y3FvZHROQT09>

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mazza called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

2. "Sunshine Law" Announcement- Adequate notice of this public meeting has been provided by Annual Notice; published in the Hunterdon Democrat and Courier News; posted on the public bulletin board and on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. In addition, due to the current situation, notices of the virtual meeting were published/posted in compliance with the Sunshine Law.

3. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Mr. Severino	x	
Mr. Mazza	x	
Mr. Hirt	x	
Mr. Stiger	x	
Mr. Stothoff	x	

Also, present Trishka W. Cecil, Attorney, Robert Clerico, Township Engineer, Grace Brennan, CFO and Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk.

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6. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

- a. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2020
- b. Special Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2020

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino			x			
Mr. Mazza			x			
Mr. Hirt		x	x			
Mr. Stiger			x			
Mr. Stothoff	x		x			

Motion carried

7. VISITORS – no visitors scheduled

8. REPORTS RECEIVED – Acknowledged and briefly discussed

- a. Road Dept.- Week Ending; 4/03/20; 4/09/20; 4/17/20; 4/24/20; 5/01/20; 5/08/20;
- b. Municipal Court – March/April 2020
- c. Animal Control Officer – March/April 2020
- d. Public Safety Director – submitted a written report and stated that he is in constant communication with emergency services serving the Township. Mr. Strauss said that Clinton First Aid and Rescue Squad and High Bridge Emergency Squad would be merging on July 1, 2020. The new organization will be called South Branch Emergency Services and will not be affecting services in Union Township. Mr. Strauss provided a brief update about the recent fire at the Bagelsmith. Mr. Stiger asked if the Township would be able to find the name of the commercial insurer for Bagelsmith. Mr. Strauss said he would try.
- e. Engineer’s Report
 - Chip & seal program for this year – gave a brief overview.
 - Brass Castle Development – gave a brief overview of the Road Improvement Project.

Mayor Mazza asked that the following motion to be approved:

To authorize Mr. Clerico to advertise “Notice to Bidders” for Brass Castle Road Improvement Project

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino		x	x			
Mr. Mazza			x			
Mr. Hirt			x			
Mr. Stiger			x			
Mr. Stothoff	x		x			

Motion carried

- Annual Stormwater Report to the State – suggested adopting and/or updating current ordinance to create mechanism to enforce compliance from property owners responsible for maintaining drainage basins.
- NJ DOT State Aid Grant Application – seeking authorization to submit an application for Baptist Church Section III and Perryville Section IV. Briefly described both projects. The Committee was in agreement.

ADDED TO AGENDA ORDER – State Trooper Sanderson

Asked if members of the Committee have any questions or concerns. Mayor Mazza mentioned that a Portable Toilet burned at the Finn Park. Mr. Sanderson said the State Police would be back to full staff next week and would be patrolling the park closely. Trooper Sanderson said there is an active case open regarding the fire at the Bagelsmith. Would be providing information as it becomes available. Mentioned a problem with Trailer Trucks turning on Baptist Church Road. He said the new signage alleviated some of the problems, but not fully to the residents’ satisfaction. Mayor Mazza asked about Trailer Trucks turning around on Charlestown Road. Trooper Sanderson said it is an ongoing issue.

8. CORRESPONDENCE/WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Stothoff mentioned the following correspondence:

- Lack of progress with regard to sexual abuse at Edna Mahan Correctional Facility. The case is again before the State Attorney General. Asked that a letter on behalf of the Committee be sent to appropriate State agency emphasizing the importance of resolving what seems to be a systematic problem at the facility. Mr. Stothoff added that even though inmates at the facility are not residents, they temporarily reside in the Township and it would only be right to try to influence the State to have the problem resolved. It was agreed that Mr. Stothoff would be working with the Township Attorney on the letter.

Mr. Hirt mentioned the following:

- Asked for a motion to approve a letter signed by the Mayor from the Township to be sent to NJ DOT, Division of Aeronautics stating “No Objection” to flying of hot air balloons in the Township, as requested by Tracy Leaver in her letter to the Committee. Mayor Mazza suggested that Township Attorney Cecil contact Atty. Jost regarding the issue.

The following motion was approved subject to Attorney review:

To authorize the Mayor to sign the letter to the Division of Aeronautics stating “No Objection” to flying of hot air balloons in the Township.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino	x		x			
Mr. Mazza			x			
Mr. Hirt			x			
Mr. Stiger		x	x			
Mr. Stothoff			x			

Motion carried subject to Attorney review

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS – no comments

10. PUBLIC HEARING – 2nd Reading

11. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **DISCUSSION** – Comcast of Central New Jersey II, LLC – Application for Renewal of Municipal Consent

Mayor Mazza said he successfully contacted a representative from Comcast and reiterated the need of access to

high-speed internet for residents on Coachman Drive and other areas of the Township in need of same. Attorney Cecil briefly described the process of the franchise contract renewal. Atty. Cecil said she would be contacting one of her associates to review the Renewal Consent.

12. NEW ORDINANCES - 1st Reading

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following Ordinance was adopted on first reading by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, at a meeting held on the 20th day of May, 2020. The Ordinance was then ordered to be published according to law. Notice is hereby given that said Ordinance will be considered for final passage at a public hearing to be held on June 17, 2020, at 7:00 pm or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached, at the Union Township Municipal Building, 140 Perryville Road, Hampton, N.J. at which time all interested parties will be heard.

ORDINANCE #2020-4

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$500,000.00 CURRENTLY LOCATED WITHIN THE GENERAL CAPITAL FUND, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT, OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, FOR IMPROVEMENTS KNOWN AS ROAD IMPROVEMENTS – BRASS CASTLE ESTATES

WHEREAS, there is \$500,000.00 in the Capital Improvement Fund, and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Union has deemed there is a need to improve various roads in Brass Castle Estates,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that:

SECTION 1. There is hereby appropriated from the Capital Improvement Fund, for the purpose of improving various roads in Brass Castle Estates, the sum of \$500,000.00;

SECTION 2. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances which are inconsistent with the terms of the Ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of their inconsistency;

SECTION 3. There is no debt incurred by this ordinance.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect after proper passage and publication in accordance with law.

BY: _____
Frank Mazza, Mayor

First Reading: May 20, 2020
Publication/in Full June 4, 2020
Second Reading: June 17, 2020
Publication/Title Only: June 25, 2020

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino			x			
Mr. Mazza			x			

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Mr. Hirt			X			
Mr. Stiger		X	X			
Mr. Stothoff	X		X			

Motion carried

NOTICE OF INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE

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ORDINANCE #2020 - 5

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$68,000.00 CURRENTLY LOCATED WITHIN THE GENERAL CAPITAL FUND, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT, OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UNION, HUNTERDON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, FOR ROAD IMPROVEMENTS AND THE PURCHASE OF PARK ZERO TURN MOWER

WHEREAS, there is \$68,000.00 in the Capital Improvement Fund, and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee of the Township of Union has deemed there is a need to improve various roads and to purchase a zero turn park mower,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ENACTED by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey, that:

SECTION 1. There is hereby appropriated from the Capital Improvement Fund, for the purpose of improving various roads, the sum of \$50,000.00;

SECTION 2. There is hereby appropriated form the Capital Improvement Fund, for the purpose of purchasing a new zero turn park mower, the sum of \$18,000.00;

SECTION 3. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances which are inconsistent with the terms of the Ordinance be and the same are hereby repealed to the extent of their inconsistency;

SECTION 4. There is no debt incurred by this ordinance.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall take effect after proper passage and publication in accordance with law.

BY: _____
Frank Mazza, Mayor

First Reading: May 20, 2020
Publication/in Full June 4, 2020
Second Reading: June 17, 2020
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Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino			x			
Mr. Mazza			x			
Mr. Hirt			x			
Mr. Stiger		x	x			
Mr. Stothoff	x		x			

Motion Carried

13. NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA: All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Township Committee and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed below. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the consent Agenda and will be considered separate.

Mayor Mazza asked that all items under New Business Consent Agenda be approved separately.

- a. **RESOLUTION #2020-60:** Refunding Redemption to Lienholder TC #2017-001

RESOLUTION #2020-60

**TOWNSHIP OF UNION, HUNTERDON COUNTY
RESOLUTION TO REFUND REDEMPTION TO LIENHOLDER**

WHEREAS, Tax Sale Certificate #2017-001 was issued to US Bank Cust BV002 TRST & CRDTRS, in the amount of \$2,086.22 on October 20, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the lien was redeemed on May 1, 2020, in the amount of \$17,696.87 in accordance with provisions of NJSA54:5-60 et seq.; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, on this 20th day of May, 2020, by the Township Committee of the Township of Union, Hunterdon County, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Treasurer issue a check in the amount of \$17,696.87 and a premium of \$3,800.00 for a total of \$21,496.87 payable to US Bank Cust for BV, 50 South 16th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102-2513
2. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino			x			
Mr. Mazza			x			
Mr. Hirt		x	x			
Mr. Stiger			x			
Mr. Stothoff	x		x			

Motion Carried

- b. **RESOLUTION #2020-61:** Re: Milligan Farm – 13.977-Acre Affordable Housing Tract

TOWNSHIP OF UNION
COUNTY OF HUNTERDON
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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Resolution 2020-61

Re: Milligan Farm – 13.977-Acre Affordable Housing Tract

WHEREAS, the Township of Union acquired property known as Lot 20 in Block 22 on the Tax Map of the Township of Union, containing 101.964 acres +/- from K. Hovnanian at Union Township II, LLC, a New Jersey Limited Liability Company, by virtue of the following:

- a) Deed dated January 30, 2006, recorded January 30, 2006 in Book 2146 at Page 459 et seq. in the Hunterdon County Clerk’s Office, as to 101.964 acres +/- subject to an area of questionable title of 1.708 acres +/- ; and
- b) Quit Claim Deed dated January 30, 2006, recorded January 30, 2006 in Book 2146 at Page 468 et seq. in the Hunterdon County Clerk’s Office, as to 1.708 acres +/- area of questionable title; and
- c) By Final Judgment of Default of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, General Equity Part, Docket No. C-14007-07, dated August 17, 2007 and recorded September 19, 2007 in the Hunterdon County Clerk’s Office in Deed book 2194 at Page 269 et seq., confirming Union Township’s title to said 1.708 acres +/- portion of Block 22, Lot 20; and

WHEREAS, the above described property is depicted on a certain Boundary Survey for Township of Union, Lot 20, Block 22, Township of Union, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Job No. UNT-146, Index No. CLSU006050, dated February 4, 2007 and revised April 7, 2008, by Richard W. Carlson, Jr., PLS, Maser Consulting, P.A., which shows as follows:

- a) Total gross area surveyed: 101.964 acres
- b) Area in Lot 20.02 (farmhouse lot): 2.393 acres
- c) Area in Lots 20.03, 20.04, 20.05, 20.06, 20.07, 20.08, 20.09, 20.10, 20.11, proposed Milligan Road, proposed Boss Lane: 13.977 acre
- d) Area in Public Roads: 2.239 acre
- e) Area in proposed site easement: 0.33 acre
- f) Area in slope easement (outside of ROW): 0 acre (6 s.f.)
- g) Net area Green Acres Encumbrance: 83.322 acres; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of Block 22, Lot 20 was authorized by Ordinance No. 2005-12 of the Township of Union pursuant to the New Jersey Local Lands and Buildings Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1 et seq. adopted on final reading on November 2, 2005 and by Bond Ordinance No. 2005-11, adopted on final reading November 2, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Township applied to the Union Township Planning Board for preliminary and final major subdivision approval for Lot 20 in Block 22, and at a hearing on November 14, 2006, the Planning Board considered a subdivision plan prepared by Ferriero Engineering, Inc. dated October 24, 2006, in order to create a site for affordable housing. The 101.96-acre tract was to be subdivided to create nine new lots on 13.95 acres upon which would be constructed a total of 45 low/moderate income houses at a density not to exceed five units

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per lot. An additional lot having an approximate acreage of 2.4 acres, which includes an existing farmhouse and structures, was also to be subdivided from the original lot. The remaining lands, totaling approximately 85.6 acres, subject to road right of way dedication, was to be set aside as permanently preserved open space. The Planning Board granted preliminary and final major subdivision approval on November 14, 2006 and memorialized said approval by resolution dated November 30, 2006, subject to the applicant receiving preliminary and final major site plan approval; and

WHEREAS, on the same date of November 14, 2006 the Township Planning Board considered a site plan prepared by Ferriero Engineering, Inc. dated October 24, 2006 for the development of nine new lots plus an access road on 13.95 acres in the northeast corner of the Milligan Farm property on which were intended to be constructed a maximum of five COAH approved low/moderate income dwelling units per lot for a total of 45 COAH dwelling units. The Board granted preliminary and final site plan approval for said development, subject to conditions as set forth in the resolution of approval dated November 30, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Union Township received conditional subdivision approval from the Hunterdon County Planning Board for the above referenced affordable housing subdivision of Block 22, Lot 20 on November 22, 2006 subject to various conditions and received unconditional approval of said subdivision by letter from the Hunterdon County Planning Board dated June 10, 2008. The Township received conditional site plan approval for the above affordable housing project by letter of the Hunterdon County Planning Board dated September 8, 2008. Pursuant to said conditional site plan approval, the Township entered into a performance bond agreement with the County of Hunterdon guaranteeing that all storm water management system, facility improvements, all as depicted in the subdivision plans and as required by the Hunterdon County Planning Board in connection with major subdivision approval HCPD File #F0825.001 and site plan approval HCPD File #R0625.00 shall be completed by the Township or its assignee to the satisfaction of the County Engineer, and that if such affordable housing project is changed to a non-COAH use, the grant of major subdivision approval with regard to such 13.977 acre development only shall be null and void, and of no effect and the Hunterdon County Planning Board unconditionally approved said site plan application; and

WHEREAS, by Deed of Conservation Restriction dated December 3, 2008, recorded on December 17, 2008 in Book 2223 at Page 42 in the Hunterdon County Clerk's Office, the Township of Union, in consideration of a County grant in the amount of \$1,500,000.00, did convey to the County of Hunterdon a conservation restrictive covenant on the identical Green Acres encumbered portion of the property of Block 22, Lot 20 on the Union Township Municipal Tax Map, subject to the rules and regulations of the Green Acres Program of the NJDEP, subject to an EIT easement area of 8.440 acres subject to the environmental restrictions of the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Financing Program ("EIFP"); and

WHEREAS, by Deed dated December 17, 2008, recorded on January 22, 2009, Book 2224, Page 540 in the Hunterdon County Clerk's Office, the Township of Union conveyed to the New Jersey Water Supply Authority an undivided 9.53% interest in fee simple, in consideration of a grant in the sum of \$800,000.00 in and to the net area of Green Acres encumbrance and the net area of open space of 83.322 acres, said deed reciting that said portion of Block 22, Lot 20 subject also to EIFP restrictions as set forth in Federal and State law, Green Acres restrictions as set forth in New Jersey Law and Regulations and the aforesaid Deed of Conservation Restriction from the Township of Union to the County of Hunterdon; and

WHEREAS, the Union Township Committee and Union Township Planning Board recently entered into a settlement agreement with Fair Share Housing Center that determined the Township's affordable housing obligation and the compliance plan for how the obligation will be addressed. Said settlement was approved by the Superior Court, Law Division, Hunterdon County on August 6, 2018 and a final judgment of compliance and repose was entered by the Superior Court on January 9, 2019 resolving all of the Township's cumulative affordable housing obligations according to the terms and conditions contained therein, which provides realistic

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opportunities for the construction of low and moderate income housing in Union Township, which plan does not include utilization of the 13.977 acre tract previously subdivided from and adjoining the Open Space portion of the former Milligan Farm; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee and the Township Planning Board upon further consideration have determined that the above described 13.977 acre tract, is not suitable and appropriate for the development of high-density affordable, low and moderate income housing, due to its proximity to the unique and fragile environmental and watershed features of the Preserved Open Space portion of Lot 20 in Block 22 which is encumbered by Open Space and conservation easements of the Green Acres Program, the County of Hunterdon restrictions, and the partial ownership of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, particularly in view of the proposed affordable housing development's proximity to the critical EIT easement area of 8.440 acres which is subject to the environmental restrictions of the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Program ("EIFP"); and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee and the Union Township Planning Board have determined that the above described 13.977 acre tract originally intended for affordable housing should be permanently preserved as open space subject to the conservation restrictions and easements as with the adjoining tract of 83.322 acres; and

WHEREAS, the Township Committee adopted Resolution 2012-70 on April 4, 2012 authorizing the expenditure of affordable housing trust fund monies in the amount of \$611,518.00 for repayment of municipal bonds and/or notes issued to finance the acquisition of Block 20, Lots 22.03, 22.04, 22.05, 22.06, 22.07, 22.08, 22.09, 22.10 and 22.11 to be used for affordable housing purposes, and on May 15, 2013 the Township Committee authorized the Chief Municipal Financial Officer to transfer additional funds in the amount of \$48,688.00 from the affordable housing trust fund to the capital reserve for debt service repayment for said approximately 14-acre portion of Milligan for a total of \$660,206.00 transferred in connection with such financing of the affordable housing site; and

WHEREAS, since the above described lands of 13.977 acres are no longer planned to be used for affordable housing purposes and are desired to be permanently preserved as restricted open space, it is necessary for the Township Committee to repay and replenish the Affordable Housing Trust Fund in the amount of \$660,206.00 previously transferred from the affordable housing trust fund in connection with the acquisition of the above described 13.977 acres of land; and good cause appearing,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Township of Union, Hunterdon County, New Jersey does hereby commit to refunding \$660,206.00 previously expended from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund for repayment of debt issued to finance low and moderate income housing activity on said property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Township Chief Financial Officer is hereby directed to transfer the following funds to the affordable housing trust fund of the Township of Union as follows:

- a) \$324,461.40 from the Capital Reserve for Debt Service Repayment
- b) \$335,744.60 from the Union Township Open Space Fund

\$660,206.00 - Total; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon transfer and repayment of the above sums to the affordable housing trust fund, the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized and instructed to execute a Declaration of Encumbrance, by the Township of Union as owner of the above described 14 acre tract composed of Block 22,

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Lots 22.03, 22.04, 22.05, 22.06, 22.07, 22.08, 22.09, 22.10 and 22.11 and proposed Milligan Road and Boss Road, establishing said lands as permanent open space, subject to the rules and regulations of the Green Acres Program of the NJDEP, and providing that Union Township will maintain the said 14 acre premises as undeveloped parkland with passive recreation only, including public access for possible hiking and/or riding trails, that there will be no active recreation, such as ball fields, on the property, and that any maintenance farming of the property, such as the cutting of hay, will be conducted only in authorized areas in accordance with all applicable management regulations and environmental restrictions, for the purpose of maintaining the open fields and scenic vistas of the property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk

Frank Mazza, Mayor

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino		x	x			
Mr. Mazza			x			
Mr. Hirt			x			
Mr. Stiger			x			
Mr. Stothoff	x		x			

Motion Carried

c. **RESOLUTION #2020-** : 2020 Salary Resolution

Mayor Mazza asked that the 2020 Salary Resolution be further discussed tonight. He said that as discussed in prior meetings, some of the Committee members agreed to 3% increase for all employees except set dollar amounts to a few members of the Road Crew. Mr. Stiger said he did not know at the time of voting for the municipal budget that it included salary raises for individual employees. His understanding was that the vote was for the overall budget with a possibility to move funds between budget lines. He said if he had known at the time of approving the budget he would have voted “no” to approve it. Mr. Stiger shared his thoughts and ideas on savings that could have been made if still allowed. He talked about local county and schools budgets that stayed flat or had a minimal increase. Also mentioned the unexpected pandemic that will have a substantial impact on the 2020 budget. He suggested that some decisions be reconsidered such as no increase for emergency services, 1.6 % salary increases and some projects be postponed for the time being. He said those and other changes would come to about \$123,000.00 savings that would bring the 2020 budget to 1.2% expenditure over 2019. Mr. Stiger proposed a tier approach to employee salaries where 3% increase would be given to the Road Crew and 2% to the administrative staff. He explained that the road crew starting salary is lower whereas the administrative staff is higher and they have been doing the job effectively for a long time.

Mr. Hirt stated that he would be willing to give all employees 2.5%. Mayor Mazza asked what would be the savings between 1.6% and 2.5%. It would be less than \$5,000.00 Mr. Stiger replied.

Mr. Stothoff was of the opinion, considering the current situation that there should not be any increases in salaries this year nor any increases in donations to emergency services. Mr. Stiger asked if the budget could be amended. CFO Brennan said that the budget had been adopted and cannot be amended, but moving funds within the budget to a certain extent could be done. Mr. Stothoff pointed out that the Road Crew would be getting about a 4.6% increase because of the staggered schedule they worked during first months of the COVID-19 Pandemic as allowed by the Committee. He added their wages or benefits were not reduced or taken away.

Mr. Severino said he would not be comfortable giving different percentages of raises to different employees. Mr. Stothoff agreed.

Mayor Mazza asked the decision be postponed until the next meeting. CFO Brennan clarified that a 3% raise for employees and a set monetary raise of \$1, 500.00 for two and \$2,500.00 for one employee on the Road Dept. was

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previously discussed. After further discussion, the Committee agreed to a 2.5% salary raise for all employees except for the three members of the Road Dept. who will receive set monetary amounts. Also, a 2% increase for Emergency Services serving the Township was agreed upon.

CFO Brennan said she would prepare an updated resolution with changes as discussed for approval at the next meeting.

Mr. Severino asked about the starting date of a new employee hired in April. Mr. Stiger suggested August 1st or two weeks after opening the Municipal Building to the Public. Mayor recommended June 16th. Briefly discussed and agreed on June 16th starting date. Mayor Mazza said there is a lot of filing and asked the Chairman of the Planning Board about organizing Planning Board files in the basement. Mr. Ford said there is plenty to be organized.

Township Atty. Cecil asked that the following motion be approved:

To start Leigh Gronau as a full time employee effective June 16, 2020.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino			x			
Mr. Mazza			x			
Mr. Hirt	x		x			
Mr. Stiger		x	x			
Mr. Stothoff			x			

Motion Carried

- d. **RESOLUTION #2020-62** : Supporting a Request for the State Legislators To Order All Service Providers of Aerial Line High-Speed Internet to Provide High-Speed Internet To All Municipalities Throughout of the State of New Jersey

Mr. Stothoff provided his opinion against the resolution. Mayor Mazza asked for a vote.

**TOWNSHIP OF UNION
HUNTERDON COUNTY
STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

RESOLUTION #2020-62

WHEREAS, rural areas of the State of New Jersey are serviced by service providers with respect to aerial line high-speed internet service; and

WHEREAS, having access to aerial line high-speed internet service is a necessary and vital part of living in today’s society; and

WHEREAS, the recent pandemic of COVID-19 further illustrates just how vital access to aerial line high-speed internet has become to society, especially during times of crisis or emergencies and how not having access to aerial line high-speed internet has the potential to cripple a community, particularly a rural one, denying the community the capacity for remote student learning and remote working arrangements with a resident’s employer;

AND FURTHERMORE, that during a time of crisis not having access to aerial line high-speed internet has the potential to shut down all functions of government by denying essential employees and elected officials

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from the ability to work, communicate, distribute information, conduct meetings, and perform the other requirements of a functioning government through remote capabilities; and

WHEREAS, Union Township believes that the service providers of aerial line high-speed internet in the State of New Jersey are more than capable of and financially sound enough to achieve a 100% rate of aerial line high-speed internet accessibility but choose not to pursue that goal unless forced to through regulation because the providers feel it is not profitable; and

WHEREAS, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service is a plight on students, reducing their educational opportunities and ability to learn in a modern world; and

WHEREAS, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service could potentially have life and death consequences for the elderly or those with various health complications; and

WHEREAS, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service causes a great burden to businesses, places them at a disadvantage, and reduces chances for economic development in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, not having access to aerial line high-speed internet service can cause rural healthcare facilities to shut down because they cannot access required networks to function, thereby further creating negative impacts on New Jersey residents' health; and

WHEREAS, Union Township's successful commitment to farmland preservation has delivered to Union Township the unintended penalty of being good stewards of the environment through farmland preservation while preventing Union Township from ever having the population density to cost-justify a telecommunications infrastructure build out in the Township; and

WHEREAS, Union Township's good stewardship of the environment by according a high priority to farmland and open space preservation should be rewarded, not penalized, with some quid pro quo consideration requiring deployment of aerial line high-speed internet access to the farms, businesses and residents of Union Township; and

WHEREAS, other rural municipalities experience this same burden due to their rural characteristics and environmental stewardship; and

WHEREAS, Union Township is desirous of assisting and cooperating with other public entities and State officials to pursue a petition before the Board of Public Utilities to enact regulations requiring a 100% rate of aerial line high-speed internet accessibility in each individual municipality throughout the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, unless the Board of Public Utilities requires service providers of aerial line high-speed internet to provide 100% aerial line high-speed internet access in Union Township and all municipalities throughout New Jersey, the State will have unintentionally subverted the public's significant investment in farmland and open space preservation by not allowing those preserved farm businesses to be economically competitive and viable over the long term.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Township Committee of the Township of Union in Hunterdon County that the Board of Public Utilities is requested to order all service providers of aerial line high-speed internet to provide aerial line high-speed internet service to all municipalities throughout the State with each municipality being afforded a 100% rate of aerial line high-speed internet accessibility; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our State representatives use their authority to require service providers of aerial line high-speed internet to achieve a 100% rate of high-speed internet access for each individual municipality throughout the State of New Jersey; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk for the Township of Union be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of New Jersey, the Senate President of the New Jersey State Senate, the Speaker of the Assembly of the State of New Jersey, the Hunterdon County Board of Chosen Freeholders, and the Board of Public Utilities; and

BE IT FURTHERMORE RESOLVED, that the clerk for the Township of Union be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the clerks of all 565 municipalities in the State, encouraging them to pass similar resolutions so that during times of crisis and emergency all New Jersey residents have access to the vital resource of aerial line high-speed internet access thus allowing employees to work remotely, healthcare providers to function, governments to continue to function ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of residents, and also so that all children in the State of New Jersey have an equal opportunity to access information critical to furthering their educations.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino	x			x		
Mr. Mazza				x		
Mr. Hirt		x		x		
Mr. Stiger				x		
Mr. Stothoff				x		

Motion Denied

e. **Motion to Approve** - Application for Annual Kennel License – Aladdin Kennels

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino	x		x			
Mr. Mazza			x			
Mr. Hirt			x			
Mr. Stiger			x			
Mr. Stothoff		x	x			

Motion Carried

f. **Motion to Approve** - Application for Annual Trailer Park License – Pattenburg Trailer Park

Tabled until next meeting. Mr. Hirt will provide regulations petering to removal of individual trailer from the Park to Enforcement Officer Gronau.

g. **Payment of Bills**

The approved lists of bills and all claims against the Township of Union in the amount of \$2,655,141.10 as appearing in the Claims Register of this date paid and that all checks listed hereinafter issued in payment thereof.

Roll Call Vote	Moved	Seconded	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Mr. Severino			x			
Mr. Mazza			x			
Mr. Hirt			x			
Mr. Stiger		x	x			

Mr. Stothoff	x		x			
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Motion Carried

14. REPORTS

a. Attorney Report

- Issue with a fence removal at Brass Castle Development. Resolved
- Working with Zoning Officer on the zoning violations on Cooks Cross Road.
- An office Associate is working with Engineer Clerico on Bid Opening Process due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Asked that a short workshop meeting with two Committee members, Clerk and Twp. Atty. be scheduled before regular TC meeting to review agenda items. Briefly discussed. Most Committee member agreed. Mr. Stiger asked how soon after the meeting should the meeting minutes be available. Atty. Cecil answered that there is no time specified, but a good practice would be as soon as possible.

b. Committee Report

Mr. Stiger reported the following:

- Said that the Road Crew is currently split in half and they work staggered days. Suggested that two members come in on their days off and mow Finn Road Park. Mr. Stothoff agreed. He said he noticed the poor condition of the lawn in front of the Municipal Building. Personnel Administrator Brennan will be contacting Road Foreman Fleming about the Road Crew returning to their regular schedule after the Memorial Day Holiday.
- Brought up an issue regarding lack of workload in the Planning Board Office. He said the Administrative personnel should be reduced from four to three days per week. Planning Board Chairman Ford agreed. Grace Brennan asked permission to contact Labor Attorney Giacobbe and discuss it further at the next meeting.
- Proposed guidelines for reopening recycling. Twp. Attorney and Director of Public Safety agreed that we still have to adhere to State Executive Orders.

Mr. Stothoff asked how and who would be in charge of providing supplies and equipment to ensure safety of employees before opening the Municipal Building. Grace Brennan will check MEL Insurance website for recommendations. Marc Strauss will work with Grace Brennan on a protocol. The Clerk mentioned Primary Elections scheduled for July 7th and a need for cleaning/sanitizing supplies.

Mr. Stothoff reported the following:

- Will be working with Mr. Severino about getting a stand by generator for the Municipal Building.
- Mentioned two separate invoices for internet one for garage and one for the main building. Mr. Hirt will look into the matter.

Mr. Hirt reported the following:

- Asked that a notice be published on the Township Website about need for Community Emergency Response Team Volunteers. Mr. Stothoff asked that Mr. Hirt email the notice to him and Mr. Stiger.

c. Mayor’s Report

Marc Strauss thanked Mr. Stothoff for posting information on the Township’s website about Emergency Services.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT – none

16. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Township Committee at this time Mr. Hirt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:39 p.m. Mr. Stiger seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous favorable roll call vote.

Transcribed by: Ella M. Ruta, Municipal Clerk

Frank Mazza, Mayor